

**From:** [Behnke, Kristina](#)  
**To:** [Cashmere, Jason](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 7:25:31 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.jpg](#)  
[image001.gif](#)

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Craig is on backup so he sent the initial notification

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Thomas, Craig" <[thomas.craig@epa.gov](mailto:thomas.craig@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** April 11, 2017 at 1:45:58 PM CDT  
**To:** R5 ER Notification List <[R5\\_ER\\_Notification\\_List@epa.gov](mailto:R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Maguire, Andrew" <[maguire.andrew@epa.gov](mailto:maguire.andrew@epa.gov)>, "Beslow, Mike" <[beslow.mike@epa.gov](mailto:beslow.mike@epa.gov)>, "Lippert, Jeffrey" <[lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov)>, "Behnke, Kristina" <[behnke.kristina@epa.gov](mailto:behnke.kristina@epa.gov)>, "Mendez, Thomas" <[mendez.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:mendez.thomas@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

**ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN**

**Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial):** NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

**Report as of:** 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

**Overview:** On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well. Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

**State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:** The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American

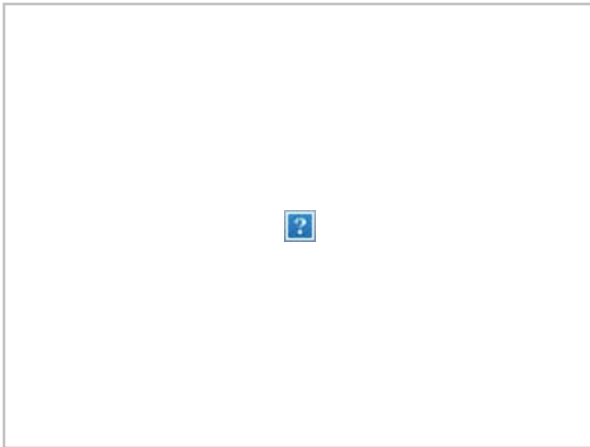
Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

**EPA Actions:** EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway. The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

**Media Interest:** No media interest at this time.

**EPA Region 5 OSC contact:** Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas

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